

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 were pending in the present Application. Claim 1 has been amended, Claim 21 has been added, and Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled, leaving Claims 1, 3-20 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found on page 19, lines 1-7 as well as in now cancelled Claim 6. Support for new claim 21 can be found in the carryover paragraph of pages 43-44. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

A. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kawabata in view of US Pat. No. 5,399,596 to Kouge et al. (hereinafter Kouge"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is generally directed to a composition that comprises, *inter alia*, a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization. Kawabata and Kouge fail to disclose or even suggest binders having a reactive group containing an oxetane group. Because of this, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because the combination of references fails to teach or suggest all of the featured elements.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

B. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohkuma in view of Kouge. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Kouge is discussed above and fails to teach or suggest a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization.

Ohkuma fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Kouge and also fails to teach or suggest a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

C. Claims 1, 3-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohkuma in view of Kouge and further in view of Otaki. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Ohkuma and Kouge are discussed above.

Otaki is generally directed to a volume type holograms. The binder resins disclosed by Otaki include "polymethacrylates or their partially hydrolyzed products, polyvinyl acetates or their hydrolyzates, polyvinyl alcohols or those obtained by converting these alcohols partly into acetal compounds, triacetyl cellulose, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, polychloroprene, silicone rubber, polystyrene, polyvinylbutyral, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated polypropylene, poly-N-vinylcarbazole or its derivatives, poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone or its derivatives, copolymers of styrene and maleic acid anhydride or their half-esters may be used." (see Col. 8, line 62 to Co. 9, line 41). There is not teaching or suggestion of a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization as claimed by Applicants.

For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because the cited references fail to teach or suggest a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization. As noted by Applicants at page 19, ll. 1-7, "[f]urther it is preferable to partly fix the recording composition in the medium after formation of the medium or to fix the recorded information after holographic recording. As a

means for such fixation, the objective can be achieved by making a crosslinking reaction between a binder compound (A) having a reactive group which can be cationic polymerized by a thermo cationic polymerization initiator.” Kouge, Ohkuma and Otaki are silent as to a composition that includes a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization. Moreover, Otaki teaches and suggests various heat curable compositions that are not sulfonium salts. There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references of a composition that of a binder compound that can be used to partly fix the recording composition in the medium after formation of the medium or to fix the recorded information after holographic recording.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

D. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dhar in view of Ohkuma, Kouge, Roth, and Hegel. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Dhar, Okhuma, Kouge, Roth and Hegel fail to teach or suggest a holographic recording medium comprising, *inter alia*, a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization. For at least this reason, the rejection should be withdrawn.

E. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7- 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dhar in view of Ohkuma, Kouge, Roth, Hegel and further in view of Horimai.

Horimai fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Dhar, Okhuma, Kouge, Roth and Hegel. None of these references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a binder compound having a reactive group containing an oxetane group and capable of cationic polymerization.

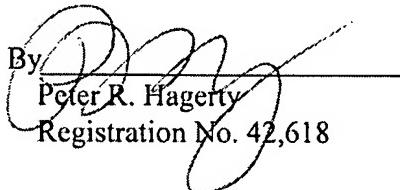
In view of the foregoing, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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